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Patent Claims

1. Element of a light-emitting display
having a light-emitting means (8) which emits
5 light when a current (i_{OLED}) flows through it,
having a first current control means (4) which is
connected in series with the light-emitting means
(8), wherein a control signal is supplied to a
control electrode of the first current control
10 means (4),
and having a first switching means (12) which is
controlled by a first switching signal and is
arranged in the feed to the control electrode,
characterized in that a second switching means
15 (10) controlled by a second switching signal is
arranged in series with the first switching means
(12) in the feed to the control electrode of the
first current control means (4).
- 20 2. Element according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** a control electrode of a second current control means (2) is switchably connected to the control electrode of the first current control means (4) via the first and second switching means
25 (10, 12).
- 30 3. Element according to Claim 2, **characterized in that** the first and second current control means (4, 2) form a current mirror circuit.
4. Element according to Claim 2 or 3, **characterized in that** a drive signal (i_{ramp}) is switchably supplied to the second current control means (2) via third switching means (13).
- 35 5. Element according to one or more of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** a signal holding means (6) is connected to the control electrode of

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the first current control means (4) such that the control signal is held when the first and/or second switching means (10, 12) interrupts the supply of the control signal to the control electrode of the first current control means (4).
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6. Element according to Claim 5, **characterized in that** the control signal and/or the signal held by the signal holding means can be put into a predetermined state by means of a fourth switching means.
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7. Light-emitting display, **characterized in that** elements according to one or more of the preceding claims are arranged in lines and/or columns.
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8. Light-emitting display according to Claim 7, **characterized in that** the control signal is supplied to a plurality of elements in a line and/or a column in parallel.
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9. Light-emitting display according to Claim 8, **characterized in that** a common first switching signal is supplied to a plurality of first switching means (12) in elements in a line and/or a column.
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10. Method for operating an element of a light-emitting display according to the precharacterizing part of Claim 1, **characterized in that** the method includes the following steps:
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- closing the first switching means (12) at the start of the cycle;
- applying a control signal to the first current control means (4) which control signal rises constantly from a predetermined starting value;
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- opening the first switching means (12) when the luminous flux emitted by the light-emitting means

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- (8) reaches a desired magnitude; and
- initiating a new cycle when the applied control signal reaches a predetermined final value.
- 5 11. Method according to Claim 10, wherein the element of the light-emitting display comprises a second switching means (10) connected in series with the first switching means (12), **characterized in that** the method further includes the following steps:
- 10 - closing the second switching means (10) before or after closing the first switching means (12); and
- opening the second switching means (10) before a new cycle is initiated.
- 15 12. The method as claimed in Claim 11, **characterized in that** the first and second switching means (12, 10) are used for selecting elements from a multiplicity of elements arranged in columns or
- 20 lines.
- 25 13. Method according to Claim 11 or 12, **characterized in that** a plurality of light-emitting elements in a column or in a line are actuated in parallel and in that the columns or lines are actuated sequentially.
- 30 14. Method according to one of Claims 10 to 13, wherein the application of the first control signal rising constantly from a starting value is the impression of a current (i_{ramp}) into a second current control means (2) which is switchably connected to the first current control means (4).
- 35 15. Method according to one of Claims 10 to 14, **characterized in that** a fourth switching signal is temporarily applied to a fourth switching means by means of which a signal held in signal holding

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means (6) is set to a defined state.

16. Method according to one of Claims 10 to 15,
characterized in that an idle time is provided
5 between two cycles.